

Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Marlene Moses Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

6th Session of the OWG-SDG on the means of implementation and global partnership

December 10, 2013

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Co-Chairs,

Nauru has the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), namely the AIMS, Caribbean and Pacific region.

AOSIS aligns itself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We take note of the presentations made by the eminent panelists, OECD Development Assistance Committee Chair Mr. Solheim, Professor and Director-General Heuer, and Executive Director Khor. Your rich experiences and perspectives are most helpful in guiding our deliberations.

In the same vein, we thank the UN Technical Support Team for their excellent work in the preparing the Brief on Means of Implementation and Global Partnership to guide our discussions.

I further acknowledge with appreciation the excellent work of their Excellencies the distinguished co-chairs, who have moved the process to this point.

Co-Chairs,

A critical area in the achievement of the SIDS sustainable development is the means of implementation. SIDS issues and priorities have been well articulated in the context of the BPOA and MSI and yet our progress towards achieving our sustainable development aspirations has been somewhat slow and uneven. For SIDS achieving our sustainable development requires closing the implementation gaps in the BPOA and MSI, the MDGs and other international agreements.

For the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework to be universal in nature, and "leave no one behind," it should integrate and reflect the SIDS priorities. SIDS are calling for a data revolution to enable effective follow up and evaluation of implementation and indicate levels of success in attainment of goals.

The SDG framework should provide applicable measures, which could be monitored and serve as indicators of efforts done by States. Moreover, the SDGs should not only focus on targets and indicators, but also on measures in order for us to monitor the efforts of States in meeting our targets.

Given the special circumstances and structural vulnerabilities of SIDS, we underscore the need to develop alternative measures for assessing progress.

Effective implementation of this data collection and monitoring will require adequate financial resources, human and institutional capacity development, and technology.

Co-Chairs,

Of course, the provision of sufficient, additional and predictable financial resources to SIDS is also critical to the development and implementation of actual projects.

SIDS call for the establishment of a dedicated mechanism to provide financing to developing countries in particular SIDS in order to develop specific projects and programs on sustainable development including access to concessionary financing. This dedicated mechanism should be addressed in the context of means of implementation in the planning of SDGs.

Moreover, SIDS call for greater efforts to be made in the provision of appropriate technology, especially environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to the SIDS, on favorable terms. This is critical to complement the national efforts of SIDS in promoting environmentally sustainable development.

Support is required from our partners, UN support system and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen our national capacities, including human and institutional capacities to increase our readiness to take advantage of direct access to financing arrangements as well as building the resilience of our societies and economies through the implementation of national development strategies and programs.

Co-Chairs:

It has been twenty years since the SIDS held its first global Conference in Barbados and almost 15 years since the establishment of the MDGs and yet significant gaps still remain in achieving full implementation of the BPOA and the MDGs.

Recalling the MDG goal 8 on global partnership for development it is widely acknowledged that implementation of this goal, including in the area of reporting, has been wholly inadequate and insufficient. This is also true as it relates to the application of this goal to the specific needs of SIDS.

For SIDS, we envision global partnership as one that can only be realized through an inclusive dialogue anchored in national ownership and empowered through partnerships based upon mutual trust, equality, respect, and accountability.

Now, as we prepare for the SIDS International Year in 2014, the Samoa Conference, the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda we must scale up our efforts on global partnership.

The SIDS are fully committed to increase all forms of partnership and enhance cooperation including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation including SIDS-SIDS.

We look forward to the Samoa Conference, where we hope to further enhance those existing and successful partnerships as well as create new innovative ones and to advance our sustainable development.

SIDS recognize the need for durable and genuine partnership of the international community to meet the challenges we face in our efforts towards attaining our sustainable development, in accordance with national priorities and needs.

Co-Chairs,

We cannot overcome our challenges by ourselves. In the absence of cooperation and assistance from the international community, our success in this regard will remain elusive. Provision of the means of implementation is therefore paramount to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of SIDS in transforming their economies for inclusive social development and environmental sustainability.

Co-Chairs,

The work we are undertaking on sustainable development is a sine qua non for protecting and safeguarding human lives and assuring a life of dignity for all people including those living in the fragile communities of the AIMS, Caribbean, and the Pacific.

I thank you.